

## Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 EB-07 /052 W

----- 008820

R 072115Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6477

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0144

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CI

SUBJECT: ALLEGED LETTER OF ARMY GENERALS TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET

REF: SANTIAGO 61

1. FOLLOWING UP ON REFTEL, NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD HERE WHICH WOULD CORROBORATE STORY CARRIED IN LONDON SUNDAY TIMES REGARDING GENERALS' LETTER TO PINOCHET DEMANDING LATTER'S RESIGNATION. WHILE STORY ITSELF HAS NOT APPEARED IN CHILEAN PRESS, BOTH EL MERCURIO AND LA SEGUNDA HAVE REFERRED TO IT EDITORIALY, IN WELL-WORN CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL MARXIST INTRIGUE AGAINST GOVERNMENT.

2. JUNTA MEMBER AND AIR FORCEGENERAL LEIGH TOLD AMBASSADOR JANUARY 7 THAT SUNDAY TIMES STORY WAS ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE. HE IS GIVING PRESS CONFERENCE FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS THIS AFTERNOON AT WHICH HE WILL MAKE THE SAME POINT. LEIGH COMMENTED THAT VOA HAD CARRIED STORY DESPITE LACK OF VERIFICATION. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT, AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, IT WAS VOA PRACTICE TO CARRY ANY NEWSWORTHY ITEM HANDLED BY TWO OR MORE REPUTABLE NEWS SERVICES: VOA REPORTED NEWS AS IT OCCURRED, WITHOUT EDITORIAL OPINION IN ITS NEWS BROADCASTS.

3. DAO STATES IT HAS RECEIVED CONVINCING DENIALS OF STORY FROM WIDE RANGE OF HIGHER MILITARY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS. A WELL-INFORMED MEMBER OF EX-PRESIDENT  
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FREI'S ENTOURAGE, WHO HAS HAD EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH SENIOR

MILITARY, TOLD US HE HAD NOT HEARD OF STORY AND WAS SKEPTICAL  
OF IT.

4. WE CONCLUDE THAT IT IS UNLIKELY MUCH MORE WILL BEHEARD  
ON THE MATTER.  
POPPER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760005-1155  
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**Reference:** 76 SANTIAGO 61  
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**Review Authority:** MartinML  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, CI, (PINOCHET)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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